

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 8, 17, 24 and 26 being independent. Claims 1-7 have been previously withdrawn. Claim 8 has been amended to recite that the photodetector element includes: a transparent substrate, a first transparent electrode over the transparent substrate, a first semiconductor film over the first transparent electrode, a metal electrode over the first semiconductor film, a second semiconductor film over the metal electrode, and a second transparent electrode over the second semiconductor film. Support for this amendment can be found in the application at least in Fig. 1 and page 16, line 22 to page 17, line 8. Applicants note that a photodetector having the recited structure enables the metal electrode to perform the function of shutting off light. See, e.g., page 18, lines 1 to 3 of the application ("In the detector elements, the metal electrode 105 has a function for shutting off the light. Therefore, light (intensity of illumination) irradiated to one display portion only is detected.") No new matter has been introduced.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 17-24 are allowed.

Independent claim 8 and its dependent claims 9, 10, 15 and 16 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Nakae (U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0166829) in view of Chiang (U.S. Patent No. 4,598,305). Claim 11, which depends from claim 8, has been rejected as being unpatentable over Nakae in view of Chiang and Koops (U.S. Patent No. 6,504,143). Claim 12, which depends from claim 8, has been rejected as being unpatentable over Nakae in view of Chiang and Helms (U.S. Patent No. 5,952,992). Claims 13 and 14, which depend from claim 8, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Nakae in view of Chiang, Helms and Nakamura (U.S. Patent No. 6,269,256). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claim 8 and its dependent claims 9-16 because neither Nakae, Chiang, Koops, Helms, Nakamura, nor any combination of the five describes or suggests a photodetector having the recited structure.

Nakae describes a folding mobile communications terminal that includes a light sensor in a light sensor unit 27, which the Examiner equates to the recited photodetector. Nakae, however,

does not describe or suggest that the light sensor in unit 27 has the recited structure. Rather, Nakae only describes the light sensor as being a photodiode.

Chiang describes thin film depletion mode TFT photodetectors 10 that can be fabricated in an integrated semiconductor array, which the Examiner equates to the recited photodetector. Notably, the TFT photodetector 10 does not have the recited structure. For example, the TFT photodetector 10 fails to include the recited metal electrode that is positioned over the first semiconductor film and on which is positioned the second semiconductor film. Rather, as shown in Fig. 1 of Chiang, the TFT photodetector 10 is formed of a polysilicon layer gate electrode 22 formed over a gate oxide 20 that is, in turn, formed on a silicon thin film layer 13 positioned on a transparent substrate 12.

Helms describes an intelligent LCD brightness control system that includes a photodetector 14' and a second photodetector 410. Helms, however, does not describe or suggest that the photodetectors 14' and 410 have the recited structure. Rather, Helms is silent as to the structure of the photodetectors 14' and 410.

Nakamura describes a foldable portable telephone set 20 that includes a light-detecting portion 2. Nakamura, however, does not describe or suggest that the light-detecting portion 2 has the recited structure. Rather, Nakamura is silent as to the structure of the light-detecting portion 2. Koops, which is relied on by the Examiner solely for disclosing operation buttons having a light-transparent property, also fails to describe or suggest a photodetector having the recited structure.

For at least these reasons, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claim 8 and its dependent claims.

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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